

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer comprising a mixture of 45 to 57 wt. % of clay, 11 to 13 wt. % of iron, 3 to 9 wt. % of zinc, 0.1 to 2.5 wt. % of manganese, 0.5 to 0.7 wt. % of copper, 0 to 0.1 wt. % of molybdenum, 7 to 10 wt. % of sulphur, and 0.05 to 0.3 wt. % of a bonding agent, the mixture being formed into pellets having a size in a range of 1.5 to 4.5 millimeters.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said iron is monohydrated iron sulphate or heptahydrated iron sulphate.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said zinc is monohydrated zinc sulphate.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said manganese is monohydrated manganese sulphate.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said copper is heptahydrated copper sulphate.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said molybdenum is tetrahydrated ammonium molybdate.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said clay is selected from the group consisting of caolinite, illite or a mixture thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 7, wherein said mixture of clays contains from 0 to 15% iron, based on a total weight of the mixture of clays.

Claim 9 (Currently amended) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said bonding agent ~~[[is a]]~~ includes calcium oxide ~~composition~~.

Claim 10 (Currently amended) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said pellets are 100% soluble in water, in a period of approximately 30 minutes at a temperature of 25°C.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said granulated fertilizer has a pH of 3.5 to 5.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said granulated fertilizer has a moisture of 2 to 6%.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said granulated fertilizer has a hardness of 1.9 to 2.3 Kg/cm².

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Previously presented) A method for preparing a fertilizer, comprising the steps of:

mixing iron sulphate, zinc sulphate, copper sulphate, manganese sulphate, ammonium molybdate and 45 to 57 wt. % of a pulverized clay formed of one of illite, caolinite or a mixture thereof until a homogeneous mixture of dusts is obtained to provide 11 to 13 wt. % of iron, 3 to 9 wt. % of zinc, 0.5 to 0.7 wt. % of copper, 0.1 to 2.5 wt. % of manganese, 0 to 0.1 wt. % of molybdenum and 7.0 to 10 wt. % sulphur as micronutrients;

feeding said mixture onto a pelletizing plate;

spraying a bonding agent in the form of a mixture of water and calcium oxide to mix with said mixture on said pelletizing plate;

feeding formed pellets into a drying oven to reduce a moisture content thereof; and
sifting the dried pellets to obtain pellets having a size range of 1.5 to 4.5 millimeters.

Claim 16 (Currently amended) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 9, wherein said calcium oxide ~~composition~~ is mixed with water to form calcium hydroxide, and said granulated fertilizer has a pH of 3.5 to 5.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said clay is formed substantially of caolinite

Claim 18 (Previously presented) A granulated fertilizer according to claim 1, wherein said clay is formed substantially of illite.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the step of feeding formed pellets into a drying oven includes the step of drying the formed pellets in ~~an multi-section~~ oven having multiple sections and temperatures that vary from 90° C to 40° C.

Claim 20 (Currently amended) A granulated fertilizer comprising a mixture of 45 to 57 wt. % of a pulverized clay formed substantially of caolinite, 11 to 13 wt. % of iron, 3 to 9 wt. % of zinc, 0.1 to 2.5 wt. % of manganese, 0.5 to 0.7 wt. % of copper, 0 to 0.1 wt. % of molybdenum, 7 to 10 wt. % of sulphur, and calcium hydroxide as a bonding agent ~~defined by a calcium hydroxide~~, and said mixture having a pH of 3.5 to 5.